



## **Staff Report for Committee of the Whole Meeting**

**Date of Meeting:** October 2, 2024

**Report Number:** SRCM.24.09

**Department:** Office of the City Manager  
**Division:** Strategy and Transformation

**Subject:** **SRCM.24.09 - Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund – Grant Applications**

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### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to submit applications for funding to streams 1 and 2 of the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund including approval of capital funding not covered by the grant should the City's applications be successful.

### **Recommendation(s):**

- a) That Council endorse the City's submission of applications to the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund (CSRIF) for the following:
  - i) Stream 1 application for Repair and Rehabilitation Projects – Lake Wilcox Park Playground and Splash Pad Resurfacing Project; and
  - ii) Stream 2 application for New Builds – Brickworks Park Revitalization Project;
  
- b) That should one or both of the City's Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund grant applications be successful, Council approve:
  - i) That the Lake Wilcox Park Playground and Splash Pad Resurfacing Project proceed with a \$395,700 budget, with approximately \$197,850 to be funded from the Provincial CSRIF, and the remaining City portion to be funded from appropriate funding sources, as determined by the Treasurer;
  - ii) That the Brickworks Park Revitalization Project proceed with a \$2,000,000 budget, with approximately \$1,000,000 to be funded from the Provincial CSRIF, and the remaining City portion to be funded from appropriate funding sources, as determined by the Treasurer.

### **Contact Person(s):**

- Stephanie Graham, Strategy and Government Relations Coordinator
- Krysten Bates, Strategy and Government Relations Coordinator
- Lise Conde, Manager, Strategy and Government Relations
- Darlene Joslin, City Manager

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### **Report Approval:**

All reports are electronically reviewed and/or approved by the Division Director, Treasurer (as required), City Solicitor (as required), Commissioner, and City Manager. Details of the reports approval are attached.

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### **Background:**

On August 19, 2024, the Provincial Ministry of Sport announced the launch of the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund (CSRIF). As part of the 2024 Budget: Building a Better Ontario, the Province is investing \$200 million through the fund to help organizations revitalize existing community sport and recreation infrastructure and build new facilities. Applications are now open through two project streams including Stream 1: Repair and Rehabilitation and Stream 2: New Builds.

The CSRIF will fund up to 50% of eligible project costs for capital projects up to a total value of \$1 million for Stream 1: Repair/Rehabilitation and up to \$10 million for Stream 2: New Builds. Funding applications for Stream 1 projects must be submitted by the deadline on October 29, 2024 while the deadline for Stream 2 applications is ongoing until funding has been fully allocated.

Staff have reviewed potential eligible projects in consultation with multiple City departments and the Provincial program advisor. Based on the feedback received, staff are preparing applications for projects that best align with the fund's criteria and objectives in both streams. For Stream 1, staff have identified the Lake Wilcox Park Playground and Splash Pad Resurfacing Project and for Stream 2, the Brickworks Revitalization Project.

### **Stream 1: Lake Wilcox Park Playground and Splash pad Resurfacing Project**

Lake Wilcox Park is a Destination Park as well as a tourism attraction for recreation in York Region and beyond. The splash pad as well as the playground structures in this park are the most popular facilities and frequently used by children and youth in the City. The aim of this project is to repair the play surfaces for both assets which have gradually deteriorated and are now in poor condition, requiring a complete replacement. Pending capital budget approval, this project would begin in 2025.

The surfacing for this playground is made with CSA-approved accessible rubberized tiles that have reached the end of their life expectancy due to the high usage and exposure to natural elements. The rubberized tiles have lifted and heaved throughout the playground making it a safety hazard for children and jeopardizing compliance with CSA standards. Replacing the rubber safety surfacing at the mid-life cycle of the play equipment extends the use of both elements providing residents and visitors with continual enjoyment of this popular facility within the City.

The surface of the splash pad includes an ornamental river rock surface which has gradually deteriorated and is now in poor condition. The deterioration is potentially due to chlorine and UV exposure and other elements, as well as children picking at the rocks. Replacing the surface will help improve public safety, extend the lifecycle of the asset, and reduce potential future impacts to the underground water recirculation system.

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### Stream 2: Brickworks Park Revitalization Project

Brickworks Park was originally constructed in 2001 and many items in the park, including the play structures, tennis courts, softball backstop, and walkways have reached the end of their expected service lifespan. Further, since the time this park was constructed, the demographics of this neighbourhood have begun to change and the City's standards for these facilities have also changed – this park has been prioritized for revitalization in order to enhance the existing facilities to meet current City standards and to enable additional sport or recreational opportunities to occur in the park to better meet the needs of the neighbourhood. For example, the tennis courts will be replaced with multi-lined courts that allow for both tennis and pickleball play, the playground will be replaced with a co-located playground and outdoor fitness equipment facilities, and the pathway system will be modified to provide a looping pathway for walkers and runners, along with providing a direct connection to the adjacent school. Sustainability improvements to the park have been considered during the conceptual design stage (e.g. additional naturalization areas to reduce lawn mowing maintenance and enhance overall biodiversity, landscape-related low impact development measures to aid with stormwater management, etc.), which began in 2022. The park has a shared-use agreement with the adjacent school, which is being updated in tandem with this project. This grant will reduce the overall financial impact to the City. Having this work 50% funded by a grant makes it especially advantageous for the City and taxpayers to approve the remaining 50% commitment outside of the normal capital budget process. Pending Council approval, this project is forecast in the Capital Plan to begin construction in 2026, but funds would be advanced to 2025 if funding is granted.

### Next steps

While Council endorsement is not an explicit grant application requirement, Council commitment to fund the remaining portion of project costs not covered by the grant is necessary. Additionally, the City's Capital Budget Financial Monitoring Policy requires Council approval to proceed with the submission of applications for funding when the City's portion of the cost exceeds \$500,000. Although this is not the case for the Stream 1 project, staff are including this project in this report for clarity to the funder of Council's support. Note that neither of these projects have received capital budget approval as of yet.

If the City is not successful with these grant applications, the work on both projects will proceed through the regular capital planning process.

### Financial Implications:

Contingent upon success with one or both of the City's applications to the CSRIF, staff recommend that Council approve a budget of \$395,700 for the Lake Wilcox Park Playground and Splash Pad Resurfacing Project and \$2,000,000 for the Brickworks Park Revitalization Project. This approval is requested in advance of the typical annual capital budget process to accommodate the October 29, 2024, deadline for the grant

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applications. If successful, the City's costs for the projects would be reduced by up to \$197,850 and \$1,000,000 respectively.

In order to submit applications for funding to the CSRIF grant program, a commitment by Council for the City portion of the costs for both projects is required. Staff are requesting that Council approve the following capital funding sources contingent on successful CSRIF grant applications:

- For the Lake Wilcox Park Playground and Splash pad Resurfacing Project (Stream 1), \$395,700 for repair of the deteriorated playground and splash pad surfaces at Lake Wilcox Park, as outlined in this report, with approximately \$197,850 of this amount to be funded from the Provincial CSRIF and the remaining City portion to be funded from appropriate funding sources as determined by the Treasurer.
- For the Brickworks Park Revitalization Project (Stream 2), for \$2,000,000 for the revitalization of Brickworks Park, as outlined in this report, with approximately \$1,000,000 of this amount to be funded from the Provincial CSRIF and the remaining City portion to be funded from appropriate funding sources as determined by the Treasurer. As noted above, this project is currently forecasted for 2026, but will be advanced to 2025 if funding is granted.

Importantly, this approval is contingent on Richmond Hill being awarded grant funding for one or both of these projects. In the event that one or both of the grant applications are unsuccessful, capital budget allocations for the full cost of these projects will be requested through the normal capital budget process.

### **Relationship to Strategic Plan 2024-2027:**

This report aligns with Pillar 1 Building a Livable, Sustainable Community, Priority 1: Manage growth in a way that enables choice and connection for the City, its residents and businesses now and in the future. Both of the projects identified for the CSRIF applications support the repairing and building of parks, trails and green space to support quality of life, community connection and resiliency.

It also aligns with Pillar 3 Strengthening Our Foundations, Priority 1: Make decisions that are evidence based and data driven to enable the City's long term financial sustainability, as well as social, environmental and economic sustainability. Identifying grant funding opportunities supports financial sustainability, as does incorporating best practices in asset management planning in our capital investments.

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### Report Approval Details

Document Title:	SRCM.24.09 - Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Sep 23, 2024

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

**Lise Conde - Sep 23, 2024 - 9:32 AM**

**Anthony Iannucci - Sep 23, 2024 - 10:21 AM**

**Gigi Li - Sep 23, 2024 - 1:24 PM**

**Darlene Joslin - Sep 23, 2024 - 5:38 PM**